

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8036

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4721

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, MX

SUBJ: CODEL JAVITS' MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA - CUBA
QUESTION

1. DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ON MAY 28, SENATOR JAVITS BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF CUBA. RECALLING THAT HE AND SENATOR PELL HAD BROKEN THE ICE IN THEIR VISIT TO CUBA LAST SEPTEMBER, SENATOR JAVITS SAID THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND CUBA WAS INEVITABLE AND DESIRABLE. HOWEVER, THIS WOULD HAVE TO COME ABOUT ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS. CASTRO WOULD HAVE TO MAKE SOME GESTURES AND TAKE SOME POSITIVE ACTIONS ON HIS SIDE, E.G., ON CLAIMS, REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES, ECT. SENATOR JAVITS SAID HE FAVORED LIFTING THE OAS SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA AND LETTING EACH MEMBER WORK OUT ITS OWN RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY. BY THE SAME TOKEN THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD LET THE US WORK OUT ITS RELATIONS WITH CUBA WITHOUT ISOLATING OR POINTING A FINGER AT THE US. HE SAID THAT THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WERE QUITE SOPHISCATED ABOUT CUBA AND DID NOT SEE IT AS A GREAT COMMUNIST THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SAID THAT DURING THE 60'S WHEN HE WAS SECRETARY OF GOVERNACION (INTERIOR) HE WAS WELL AWARE THAT SOME OF THE LEFT-WING AGITATION IN MEXICO WAS INSTIGATED FROM CUBA. DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS, HOWEVER, CUBA HAD STOPPED SEEKING TO EXPORT REVOLUTION TO THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA AND HE WAS CONVINCED THAT CASTRO HAD BECOME MORE PHILOSOPHICAL AND PRUDENT. IN ANY EVENT, HE THOUGHT IT WAS WISE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 04721 302039Z

WITH CASTRO BECAUSE HE HAD ALWAYS OPERATED ON THE PRIN-

CIPLE THAT IT WAS BETTER TO WATCH WHAT THE LEFTISTS
WERE DOING FROM THE INSIDE RATHER THAN TO OPPOSE THEM
BLINDLY FROM THE OUTSIDE.
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